Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /078 W

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OR 181627Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2243

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKRA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJVAIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSON NATO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAEPTOWN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/-

TAGS: PFOR DA AO

SUBJ: DENMARK RECONGIZES MPLA

REF: COPENHAGEN 0508

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

SUMMARY: THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS RECONIZED THE MPLA AS THE LEGITMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. THERE IS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT RECOGNITION ACTION COULD NOT BE COORDINATED WITH EEC COUNTRIES END SUMMARY.

1) IN A RADIO INTERVIEW AT NOON TODAY, DENMARK'S FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. HE STATED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THIS ACTION INCE THE MPLA MEETS THE DANISH RECOGNITION CRITERION OF BEING ABLE TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE TERRITORY IT CLAIMS.ANDERSEN SAID IT HAD BEEN HOPED THIS MOVE COULD BE MADE IN UNITY WITH THE OTHER COMMN MARKET AND NORDIC COUNTRIES BUT THAT FRENCH RECOGNITION HAD MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE. HE DID NOT OTHERWISE COMMENT ON THE FRENCH ACTIN, BUT SAID IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE MINISTERS' MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG.

2) ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PREMIER ANKER JORGENSEN, UPON HEARING OF THE FRENCH RECOGNITION ACTION YESTERDAY, SAID: "THAT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT COOPERATION IN EUROPE." INCONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER THIS MORNING, BENT HAAKONSEN, CHIEF OF MFA'S 3RD OFFICE (WHICH INCLUDES AFRICA), DESCRIBED DANISH REACTION TO UNILATERAL FRENCH RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA YESTERDAY. HAAKONSEN SAID OTHER EC REPS WERE FLOORED YESTERDAY MORN-ING AT POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG WHEN FRENCH REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS IMPATIENT WITH INABILITY OF NINE TO AGREE ON TIMING OF ANOGLAN RECOG-NITION AND DISCLOSED THAT FRANCE WOULD MAKE A UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY AT NOON. HAAKONSEN SAID HE HAD "NO IDEA" WHAT COMPELLED THE FRENCH TO DO THIS. HE CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDED THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IRONIC THAT THE EC COUNTRY TO "BREAK RANKS" ON THIS QUESTON WAS NOT ONE WITH AND SYMPATHY FOR THE MPLA, BUT FRANCE WHICH HAD BACKED THE MPLA'S ADVERSARIES.

3) IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, HAAKONSEN SAID HE HAD LARNED BY TELEPHONE THIS MORNING FROM HIS COUNTERPARTS IN THE NORWEGIAN AND SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRIES THAT BOTH THOSE GOVERNMENTS INTENDED TO ISSUE DECLARATIONS OF RECOGNITION TODAY. THIS INFORMATION, TOGETHER

WITH THE EARLIER STATEMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS, CLINCHED THE CASE FOR DENMARK.

4) COMMENT: THE DANES HAD ACTIVELY SOUGHT A JOINT RECOGNITION EFFORT BY THE EEC AND THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND HAD HOPED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS ON THIS ISSUE. THE DANISH PRESS CHARACTERIZES THE GENERAL REACTION TO THE UNILTERAL FRENCH RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA AS ONE OF STRONG RESENTMENT. AS PREDICTED BY DANISH FOREIGN OFFICE, DANISH RECOGNITION WAS ALMOST SIMULTAENOUS WITH THE SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN. DEAN

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